

Council Tax and Budget Information 2026/27



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Hertfordshire

Medium Term Financial Planning

The Council has achieved a balanced budget for both 2026/27 and 2027/28, with projected surpluses allowing us to increase reserves and strengthen short-term resilience.

However, the medium-term environment remains challenging. Demand continues to rise, particularly driven by greater volume and complexity of need across children's, adults' and older people's services. In addition, national discussions on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) create uncertainty, especially as there is currently no clear Government guidance on how the full costs of LGR will be funded.

The Council will need to deliver a further record year of savings, rising from £55m in 2026/27 to £117m by 2029/30, on top of substantial efficiencies already delivered. The financial strategy also assumes that 90% of future High Needs Block deficits will be funded, which remains a key dependency.

Overall, the Council enters the next two years from a stronger position, but with significant risks that require ongoing focus on transformation, demand management and long-term sustainability.

Your Council Tax contribution at a glance

Over the coming year, we will spend £1.2 billion delivering over 500 council services. To enable this investment across the Hertfordshire, councillors have agreed the Council's budget for 2026/27, which includes an increase of 4.99%, of which 2% is attributable to the adult social care (ASC) precept and an additional 2.99% for general council tax. This works out at an extra £1.70 a week for average Band D households.

Council Tax is billed and collected by each district council on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council. The table below shows the county's charge per band. The total amount of council tax you pay can be found on your bill.

Band	2025/26 Council tax	4.99% Increase (incl. ASC Precept)	2026/27 Council tax
A	£1,179.91	£58.88	£1,238.79
B	£1,376.56	£68.70	£1,445.26
C	£1,573.22	£78.51	£1,651.73
D	£1,769.87	£88.32	£1,858.19
E	£2,163.18	£107.94	£2,271.12
F	£2,556.48	£127.57	£2,684.05
G	£2,949.78	£147.20	£3,096.98
H	£3,539.74	£176.64	£3,716.38

Our Budget

The money collected in council tax helps fund a wide range of vital services across the County. Our net budgeted spend for 2026/27 is split out across the following areas. Further context of these areas can be found in our “On your side” publication, available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax.

Net budget by area	2026/27 £m
Supporting those most in need	562.5
Helping children and young people reach their potential	309.7
Fixing roads and buses	76.9
Growing a sustainable Hertfordshire	58.3
Protecting our communities	49.2
Keeping our residents healthy	73.5
Delivering more for our communities	20.7
Supporting Frontline Services	81.5
Capital Financing and Treasury	55.3
Central Items & centrally held savings	(80.1)
Total Net Revenue Budget	1,207.5

Gross Budget and Council Tax Requirement

In total the Council expects to spend a gross amount of £3,143.1m on all services compared with £2,950.4m in 2025/26. Towards this, we expect to receive £166.6m in sales, fees and charges for services; £40.9m in partner contributions and £1,728m in grants, of which £1,601.8m relates to the grants for schools. Allowing for this, the net budget will be £1,207.5m. This is an increase of 1% from last year and reflects additional service demand, exceptional inflationary pressures and new investment opportunities.

The council tax requirement has changed from £830.5m to £877.3m reflecting the 4.99% increase in the amount charged and a 0.61% increase in the net taxbase.

2025/26 £m		2026/27 £m
2,950.4	Gross Budget	3,143.1
	Less:	
(1,574.3)	Ring-fenced Grants (including Schools)	(1,728.1)
(156.3)	Sales, Fees & Charges	(166.6)
(36.0)	Partner Contributions	(40.9)
1,183.7	Net Budget	1,207.5

2025/26 £m		2026/27 £m
1,183.7	Net Budget	1,207.5
(167.6)	Business Rates Retention Scheme	(122.9)
(183.9)	Government Grants	(202.7)
(1.7)	Council Tax Collection Fund	(4.6)
830.5	Council Tax Requirement	877.3

Enquiries

District / Borough	Telephone	Email
Broxbourne Borough Council	01992 785577	counciltax@broxbourne.gov.uk
Dacorum Borough Council	01442 228000	council.tax@dacorum.gov.uk
East Herts District Council	01279 655261	revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk
Hertsmere Borough Council	(020) 8207 2277	revenues@hertsmere.gov.uk
North Herts Council	01462 474000	counciltax@north-herts.gov.uk
St Albans District Council	01727 866100	counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk
Stevenage Borough Council	01438 242875	revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk or revenues@stevenage.gov.uk
Three Rivers District Council	01923 776611	counciltax@threerivers.gov.uk
Watford Borough Council	01923 278466	counciltax@watford.gov.uk
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	0333 034 3014	welhat.counciltax@liberata.com

Enquiries about payments, rebates or benefits should be made to your **district or borough council**:

If you have an enquiry about **Hertfordshire County Council's** budget or if you would like the information in this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language, please either:

Visit our website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax

Email: budget@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call: 0300 123 4040